

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER
ARAM KEZIRIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Peter Aram Kezirian, who passed away at the age of 67. Although he will be remembered for his service in the military and his contributions to the community of Fresno, California, he will mostly be remembered for his devotion to his family and friends, who he was always there for, whenever they needed him.

Peter graduated from Central High School and earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno. He was a hard worker and spent his entire life working for the Kezirian family businesses. First, he worked at Rolinda Farmers Store until 1997, when the store closed; and then he worked at managing the family farm.

Peter dedicated 30 years of his life serving with the 144th Fighter Wing of the California Air National Guard. Achieving the rank of Master Sergeant, he retired with an honorable discharge in 2003. When he was not serving in the military, he continued his work with the family businesses, and loved watching his favorite sports teams play. He loved the San Francisco Giants and was a true fan of the Chicago Bears. When it came to NASCAR, he was a grand prix enthusiast.

Peter is survived by his mother Alice Kezirian; brothers Vaughn Kezirian (Ann) and Robert Kezirian, sisters Terry Kezirian, Paula Cunningham (Brian), and Janice Kezirian (Dalton Bennett). He leaves behind his many nieces and nephews, family members and dear friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and achievements of my friend, Peter Aram Kezirian. He was a respected member in the community, a loving son and brother and a veteran, who had a passion for life and the people of the Central Valley.

CELEBRATING THE EAST BAY
AREA SECTION OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF NEGRO
WOMEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the East Bay Area Section of the National Council of Negro Women. The National Council of Negro Women is a non-profit organization with the mission to "lead, advocate for, and empower women of African descent, their families and communities." NCNW was founded in 1935 by the influential educator and activist Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and the iconic Dr. Dorothy Height served as president of the organization for more than fifty years. For seventy years, the East Bay Section of NCNW has followed in the footsteps of the organization's founder and its longtime president by serving as a pillar of the Bay Area community.

The strength of the East Bay Section lies in its exceptional members. Led by President Carlene Gray, the members of this Section are leaders in their industries and in their community. Some are students, others are educators, business owners, healthcare professionals, civil servants, and others have retired. What they all have in common is their commitment to improving their community and empowering its people. They believe they are their sister's keeper. They encourage African American women and their families to serve as ambassadors in the community and contribute to its success.

The East Bay Section continues to strengthen the community through innovative social, civic, and economic programs. These programs have supported so many members of the community including women, children, seniors, and veterans. They have also provided donations to the Alameda County Food Bank, donated hygiene supplies to women in need, purchased school supplies and hosted public forums on education. They have led innovative programs to support survivors of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and sex trafficking. During the pandemic, they have donated to community shelters and ensured that the community stayed informed with up-to-date resources.

For seventy years, the East Bay Section of the National Council of Negro Women has been dedicated to serving and uplifting the Bay Area. Its members serve as passionate community advocates and share a commitment to improving the lives of African American women, their families, and the community. In the face of great challenges, the women of the East Bay Section of the National Council of Negro Women continue to rise to the occasion and improve countless lives through their tireless work. Their leadership and vision is needed now more than ever. May the East Bay Section's impact continue to be felt across the community for many years to come. Congratulations on seventy years of impact and service.

JON PAWLOW RETIREMENT
TRIBUTE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Jonathan R. "Jon" Pawlow, our longtime Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Senior Counsel. After 20 years of service on the Committee, Jon will be retiring at the end of this year. It's difficult to picture the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee without Jon here. In fact, it's difficult to imagine the water policy sphere throughout the entire Congress without Jon here. For 20 years, Jon has been an absolute go-to for all things Clean Water Act. He has been an immense resource for not just the Committee, but for the entire Congress. He has left his mark upon the work product created under a legion of full and subcommittee chairmen and ranking members. However, even prior to joining the Committee, Jon was accomplished. He graduated Rutgers University with both a bachelor's and master's degrees in water resources engineering and en-

vironmental science, and also holds a law degree from Georgetown University. He accumulated over 15 years of private law practice, gaining expertise in the environmental and intellectual property fields. After that, Jon served in the Office of Water at the Environmental Protection Agency for nine years and then moved on to the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. These experiences allowed him to bring a host of policy and regulatory experience to the Committee. Jon has left his fingerprints on just about every piece of water legislation in the past two decades. He has also been a key participant in five Water Resources Development Acts, including the last four, where Congress got its act together and began passing bipartisan WRDAs consistently every two years. Finally, throughout his professional life, Jon has been a teacher and a mentor. At various times in his career, he has instructed at institutions such as the George Washington University Center for Career Education and the Old Dominion University College of Engineering and Technology. This has carried over to his time on the Hill. He has always made time for anyone he meets to walk through the ins-and-outs of water policy, from Full Committee Chairs, to leadership staff, to personal office legislative assistants. Jon is a dedicated professional and devoted staffer, and we will all greatly miss his knowledge, expertise, and guidance. I am personally grateful for his service to this Committee and to Congress. I thank him so much for dedicating his career to water policy and service to the American public. I hope he and Terry make the most of their well-deserved retirements. I thank him for all he has done.

NAFTA DEVASTATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today President Biden hosted Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and Mexican President Lopez Obrador for the North American Leaders' Summit.

I urge them to address the continental challenges unleashed by NAFTA job losses in the U.S. and the rising illicit drug trade.

An often overlooked impact of NAFTA trade is the evisceration of Mexico's white corn market.

As Mexican farmers lost their livelihoods, many turned to planting poppy crops for income, which is now blended with Chinese fentanyl.

We know too NAFTA devastated our Industrial Heartland leading to massive job loss and a continuing surge of narcotics into the U.S.—killing nearly a million people.

I urge the President and continental leaders to not ignore the harms of NAFTA on American workers, Mexican farmers, and communities ravaged by job losses and the opioid epidemic.

Let us chart a new path forward for continental trade—but not based on penny wage labor. The Americas need fair trade.